

Kun. A Spanish expedition led by Francisco Javier Lapresa climbed Kun (7077 meters, 23,220 feet) by its east ridge on August 21. The leader and 12 of its 14 members reached the summit.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Editor, Himalayan Journal*

Nun Attempts. There were two unsuccessful expeditions to Nun (7135 meters, 23,410 feet) in 1994. *French* climbers led by Jean Bordes attempted the north face while a *British-American* expedition led by Alan Burgess tried in September to climb the west ridge but was turned back by very bad weather.

Nun, 1993, Mysterious Disappearance. On August 22, 1993, after establishing Camp II on Nun, we returned to Base Camp. On the way we met three Germans, who revealed that they would attempt D41 (Barmal Peak; 5813 meters, 19,039 feet). Two days later, the three Germans were joined by four others, making six men and a woman. Our liaison officer, Mohinder Pal, informed me that they were in the region without proper authority and without paying peak fees. On August 26, when we were climbing from Camp II to III, we could see that they had pitched a camp close to Camp II and were climbing D41. On September 1, our expedition put three people on the summit of Nun. Our support team was with me at Camp IV. I was surprised to discover two of the Germans there. On the 2nd, they continued their attack on Nun. We made no further attempt. While evacuating Camps IV and III, we observed the two Germans nearly at the summit of Nun. At one P.M., clouds moved in and we could not see them. It stormed for the next four days. On our return to Base Camp on September 3, our liaison officer informed us that five of the Germans had left on September 1. On the 6th, we left Base Camp to return to the roadhead at Tongol. Up to that time, the two Germans had not returned and have not been seen since.

KONDO KAZUYOSHI, *Japan Workers' Alpine Federation*

Winter Trek along the Zaskar River to Leh, Ladakh. An Indo-British party co-led by Indian Mandip Singh Soin and Briton John Barry was flown to Padum in Zaskar on February 6 to begin their 120-kilometer trek down the frozen Zaskar River to near Leh. After the successful trek, they attempted a winter ski ascent of Stok Kangri, but bad snow conditions turned them back.

Pakistan

K2 Ascents, Attempts and Tragedy. A large number of expeditions was active this year on K2. An expedition of *Spanish Basques* led by Juan Oiarzabal established Base Camp at 4950 meters at the foot of the mountain. They climbed the route pioneered by Tomo Česen to the Shoulder. On June 6, they

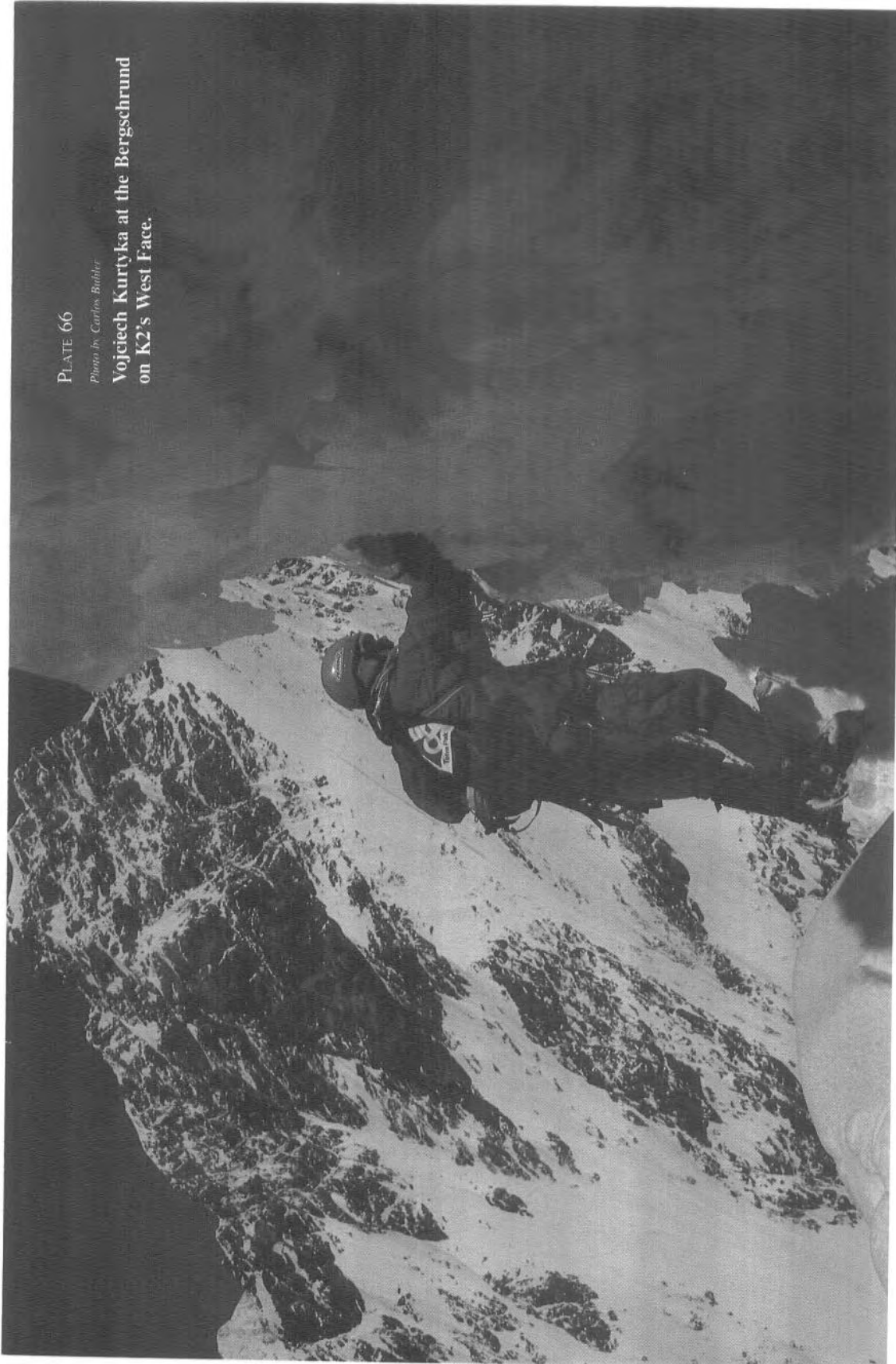
established Camp I at 6400 meters but bad weather ensued. They were back at Camp I on June 17 and established Camp II at 7100 meters the next day before descending to Base Camp. On June 21 Oiarzabal, the brothers Alberto and Félix Iñurrategui and Kike de Pablo, joined by Joan Tomás Gutiérrez from a Catalán expedition, climbed to Camp I and to Camp II on the 22nd. On June 23, they climbed to the Shoulder at 8000 meters to bivouac there. They reached the summit at three P.M. on June 24 after 13 hours of climbing, the first ever to complete the ascent to the summit via the Česen route. The snow as far as the Bottleneck was perfect, but above there, it was knee-deep. The other member of the party, Josu Bereziartua, had to give up his attempt because of a health problem. A *Spanish Catalán* expedition led by Angel Rifà i Ros was unsuccessful, reaching a high point at Camp I. *Poles* Kurtyka, Wielicki and *American* Buhler unsuccessfully first attempted the mountain from the west and then via the Česen route [See below.] *Ukrainians* led by Vadim Sviridenko met tragedy with the loss of three climbers. [See Below.] German Ralf Dujmovits led an *international* group on the Abruzzi Ridge. New Zealander Rob Hall reached the summit on July 9. [See below.] On July 23, Germans Dujmovits, Axel Schlönvogt, Michi Würtl and Finn Veikka Gustafsson also reached the summit. [Also see below.] Another international group, consisting of *Americans* leader David Bridges and Steve Untch, *Australian* Michael Groom and *Welshman* Harry Taylor first planned to attempt the northwest face but then turned to the Česen route. Their efforts are described briefly below. Untch fell to his death when a fixed rope broke as he was assisting Groom off the mountain, who had a leg injury and frostbite. An expedition of *14 Koreans* led by Kim In-Tae established Camp III at 7350 meters but gave up there. They left Base Camp on July 29. *4 Japanese* led by Hirofumi Konishi ran into bad luck. During the approach, the leader and one other had high fevers and had to return to Islamabad for medical checks. They returned, but were 23 days behind schedule. After establishing Camp II at 6880 meters, they got to 7200 meters, but decided to withdraw. They left Base Camp on July 31. *7 Japanese* led by Tadakiyo Sakahara were also active, despite rockfall problems. On August 14, Masafumi Todaka, Toshiyuki Katamura and Tomiyuki Kato reached 8360 meters, but they gave up there because of deep snow.

K2, Attempt from the West and Ascent from the South. Poles Wojciech Kurtyka, Krzysztof Wielicki and I spent three and a half weeks of hard work on the Sickle on the west side of K2 before we abandoned the effort as being too dangerous. We then redirected our efforts to the Česen route which joins the Abruzzi Ridge below the Shoulder on the south side. Although Kurtyka had chosen to remain in our camp on the Shoulder at 7800 meters that day, on July 9 at 4:20 P.M. Wielicki and I turned back at about 8590 meters, some 20 meters below the summit of K2 in *very* deep snow. The weather was clear, cold, calm, with extraordinary views. We felt it wiser to use the remaining light to begin our long descent. We reached the tent at 1:30 A.M., 21½ hours after setting off. Accompanying us were Finn Veikka Gustafsson, New Zealander Rob Hall, who

PLATE 66

Photo by Carlos Buhler

**Vojtech Kurtyka at the Bergschrund
on K2's West Face.**



had come up the Abruzzi Ridge, and Australian Michael Groom, who had come up behind us on the Česen route along with Americans Steve Untch and David Bridges. Hall, who was the only one of the five on oxygen, pushed on alone to the summit, which he reached at 4:45 P.M. We all descended to the Shoulder together. On the 10th, we three descended rapidly to Base Camp. Hall, Gustafsson and Groom returned via the Abruzzi a day later. Gustafsson and Hall were members of German Ralf Dujmovits' Amical Alpin expedition. Bridges was the leader of the expedition which included Untch and Groom.

CARLOS BUHLER

K2, Amical Alpin Expedition and the Death of Steve Untch. Our international expedition included New Zealander Rob Hall, Finn Veikka Gustafsson, Frenchmen Dr. Philippe Arvis and Alain Roussey, and Germans Henning Paschke, Rodja Ratteit, Axel Schlönvogt, Michi Wärthl and me as leader. We were amazed to find the Base Camp at the foot of K2 so clean, though that was not always the case on the mountain itself. There was a cat's cradle of fixed rope above 7000 meters. At places, there were 12 parallel fixed ropes. In excellent weather, Hall, Gustafsson, Wärthl, Schlönvogt and I worked our way to Camp III on July 7, too rapidly for all but rugged Gustafsson and Hall, who arrived acclimated from his recent Everest and Lhotse climbs. While Hall and Gustafsson continued on [see above], we three descended. After a period of bad weather, we climbed in a single day, July 17, back to Camp II, but the weather turned bad again and we descended. Exhausted by previous efforts, only Schlönvogt, Wärthl, Gustafsson and I from our expedition, joined by Australian Michael Groom, set out on the next foray. On the second day, we got to Camp III and found our tents, pitched in a protecting crevasse, under two meters of snow. This meant three hours of hard labor at 7300 meters to dig it all out. We marked the way to Camp IV at 7850 meters the next day with 50 bamboo wands. At midnight on July 23, we set out for the summit under a nearly full moon. The previous stormy weather had hardened the surface and so we reached the Bottleneck in good time. Groom and I fixed 250 meters of rope diagonally up 70° ice to the right of the Bottleneck. At five A.M., we continued up the 50° slope. Our anticipatory joy of getting to the top was dampened as we perceived the bodies of two of the Ukrainians hanging on a rope above us. Twenty minutes later, we had to climb past them. Because of this, we hardly wanted to go further, but we were so close to the top. Groom, Schlönvogt and I broke trail in turn. At 8500 meters we had a short ice pitch of 55° or 60°. At about eleven A.M., we all stood on the summit. We had made it without artificial oxygen. Gustafsson called home by radio and satellite telephone, but when I called, I got the answering service only! We knew the descent would call for all our strength and concentration. The weather deteriorated. By the time we passed the corpses, it was snowing hard with zero visibility. After we had descended the fixed rope beside the Bottleneck, we came upon one leg of the third Ukrainian. I was nearly nauseated. We crouched for the night in our

bivouac tents on the Shoulder. The next morning at seven o'clock, a lull let us see one of the bamboo wands 50 meters below us. We were away in minutes, groping our way down the steep slopes from wand to wand. Below Camp III, the fixed lines showed the way, but they were iced and required care. While Groom and Schlönvogt halted for the night at Camp II, we other three descended to Base Camp. Groom had twisted his knee just before Camp II so badly that the next day he could hardly put any weight on it. For that reason, his American friends climbed up with pain-killing medicine to help him down. Steve Untch had carried Groom's pack and belayed him down past House's Chimney nearly to Camp I. A Korean climber was moving up a solid fixed rope. Not wanting to wait, Untch began to rappel down one of the old ropes, which broke under his weight, and he hurtled 800 meters down the steep ice slope to his death. A final attempt by other members of our expedition was stopped by bad weather at Camp IV on the Shoulder.

RALF DUJMOVITS, *Amical Alpin, Germany*

K2 Ascent and Tragedy. In order to acclimatize our members before attempting K2, we established a training camp near Nanga Parbat from May 18 to June 10. On June 6, ten of our thirteen members reached the summit of Rakhiot Peak (7074 meters, 23,208 feet). Then from Skardu and Askole we approached our K2 Base Camp, established on June 23 at 4730 meters. We placed Advance Base, Camp II and III at 5200, 6700 and 7400 meters on June 25, June 26 and July 3 before coming down to Base Camp for a rest. On July 9, six members reached Camp IV at 7800 meters. From Camp IV, Aleksandr Pazkhomenko, Dmitry Iszagin-Zade, Alexei Khazaldin and Aleksandr Serpak hoped to climb K2 together. After watching the others climb toward the summit on July 9 and Rob Hall reach the top, on July 10 at two A.M. all four set off, but Serpak turned back at 8100 meters. They forgot to take the radio. At eight A.M., the weather went bad, preventing those in Camp IV from seeing them, except for one moment when they heard them and another when they observed the three approaching the summit. The weather that night became worse and it snowed even in Base Camp. Three more climbers went up to Camp IV to join the three already there in the hope of supporting the summit climbers, who had not returned. However, although they remained there for six days, the weather remained so bad that they could not venture out for fear of avalanches. On July 16, they returned to Base Camp. After a rest, we decided to investigate the tragedy further. On July 22, Matislav Gozbenko and Vladimir Terzeul reached Camp IV and on July 23 they reached the summit of K2 with five members of the German Amical expedition. On the way up, at 8400 meters, they found the frozen bodies of Pazkhomenko and Khazaldin. On the way down, the Germans discovered the leg of Iszagim-Zade stuck in the snow near the Bottleneck. From Base Camp, we had to return without our three friends.

VADIM SVIRIDENKO, *Odessa, Ukraine*

Broad Peak Ascents, Attempts and Tragedies. There were eleven expeditions this year on Broad Peak, on the normal route with only one exception. Mexican Carlos Carsolio climbed a new route. (See the article earlier in this *Journal*. He was officially a member of an expedition led by German Rollo Steffens, but he climbed independently. Dr. Margret Šterbova led an expedition of 8 Czechs, 2 South Tirolean Italians and 1 Catalan Spaniard, which placed Hans Kammerlander on the summit on June 21 for his ninth 8000er. He was accompanied by his fellow South Tirolean Hans Mutschlechner as far as the foresummit. Kammerlander placed a piece of red and purple rope firmly tied to a ski pole on the true summit. Since many falsely claim a complete ascent upon reaching the foresummit, this enabled him to check on whether climbers had reached the true summit or not. He skied most of the way down. The Czechs lost two of their number, Bohuslav Bilex to pulmonary edema and Alexei Himer in a fall near Camp II. Acting more or less independently, although officially a member of the Czech team, Magda Nos King, a Spaniard who resides in the United States climbed to 7900 meters with Ang Phuree Sherpa, but they spent much of the time removing debris and garbage. The pair collected and disposed of 2200 pounds of materials. (See below.) Swede Göran Kropp led 3 Swedes and an Australian, who first attempted a new route on the south spur leading to the south shoulder, where the principal difficulties were between 5200 and 7000 meters. They got to 6500 meters but then turned to the normal route. On June 25, Kropp, Swede Mats Holmgren and Australian Andrew Lock climbed to the foresummit. On July 2, Kropp made an amazing solo ascent to the summit in only 18 hours and 15 minutes. Other expeditions which placed climbers on the true summit follow: 4 Germans, 1 Mexican, 2 Austrians and 1 South Tirolean led by Rollo Steffens, of whom Carlos Carsolio completed his climb on July 9; 7 Spanish Basques led by Josu Feijoo, who on July 23 placed Patxi Ibaria on the top, accompanied by two Danes, while Ritxard González got to the foresummit; 4 Danes led by Dr. Henrik Jessen Hansen, of whom Bo Belvedere Christensen and Jan Mathorne climbed to the summit with Ibaria on July 23; and 6 Pakistani, 5 American, 1 French and 3 Italian armed-forces climbers led by Pakistani Jabbar Bhatti, who placed Italian Alessandro Busca on the summit on July 3 and Frenchman Emmanuel Morin on July 10. Unsuccessful were 8 Germans led by Dr. Matthias Respondek, of whom Günter Mauthe and the 48-year-old woman, Helga Leibfarth, reached the foresummit; Germans, Austrians and Swiss led by South Tirolean Hermann Tauber; 7 Mexicans led by Antonio Cortés; 5 Italians led by Sergio Della Longa, 12 Germans and Austrians led by Nik Rafanovic (Martina Bauer, daughter of Willi Bauer who survived the K2 horrors of 1986, got to within 30 meters of the foresummit); and 5 Koreans led by Sun Woo-Nam.

Broad Peak, New Route. Mexican Carlos Carsolio climbed a difficult new route on the west face of Broad Peak. This is described in a full article earlier in this *Journal*.

PLATE 67

Photo by Magda Nos King

**Garbage Collection at Broad Peak
Base Camp.**



Broad Peak Attempt and Garbage Clean-Up. I returned to Pakistan with a double objective: to remove as much garbage as possible from the Karakoram and to climb Broad Peak if possible, which would have been my third 8000er. I chose to make a lightweight attempt with Ang Furi Sherpa, who had been with me on Everest and had made with me the summits of Cho Oyu and Shisha Pangma. On June 7, we placed Base Camp at 4900 meters below the standard route. For the next ten days, we had daily snowfall, but on June 11, we climbed to 5800 meters with loads. When we went back up on June 17, we placed a tent at 6400 meters at Camp II. On the 20th, we climbed to Camp II with an extra tent to be placed at 6900 meters. Bad weather did not let us try for the summit until June 24 when we reached 7700 meters before strong winds forced us back. Our second try started on July 1, but it snowed heavily at Camp II and that stopped us. On July 7, we left Base Camp and on the 8th, we carried our tent to 7300 meters. On July 9, we left at 3:30 A.M. and climbed in knee-deep snow. Finally, some 30 meters below the foresummit, I knew the only choice was to turn back. Even so, it was after midnight when we reached our tent. During two months, and with the help of Balti porters, we collected all kinds of garbage during the approach march and at Base Camp. This we separated, burned what we could and crushed the metal. We then packed it into bags and made 25-kilo loads for the porters to carry out. Altogether, we removed over one ton of garbage, 800 kilos of which we took to Skardu to be recycled. I hope that my efforts to erase the mistakes of the past will send the message that we must all work together to preserve and protect these beautiful and remote areas.

MAGDA NOS KING

Gasherbrum I. Our expedition was composed of Giorgio Nicolodi, Gino Valle, Fausto De Stefani, Sergio De Leo and me as leader. Excessive heat caused problems on the approach along the Braldo River and on the mountain. We climbed Gasherbrum I by the north face up the Japanese Couloir to Camp III and from there to the summit by the Messner-Kammerlander route. We established Base Camp, Camps I, II and III on July 21, 23, 27 and August 2 at 5200, 5900, 6400 and 7200 meters. It took seven hours for all of us except Nicolodi to reach the summit on August 3 from Camp III on very steep slopes. This was the 11th 8000er for De Stefani and my 9th.

SERGIO MARTINI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

Gasherbrum I (Hidden Peak). Our commercial expedition led by Briton Jonathan Pratt and me from the United States consisted of eleven climbers, of whom six reached the summit, and six trekkers, one of whom got to 6500 meters. We were of six nationalities. The normal south-facing route on Gasherbrum I is closed due to the Pakistani-Indian war. The north couloir, which we climbed, is a slash of snow cut into the rocky north face, which allows passage from the 6400-meter Gasherbrum La to the upper snowfields at 7000

meters. Above the La, a snow slope turns to 40° rock, then narrows to a rocky, snow-choked couloir of 50° between jagged cliffs, in which we fixed 700 meters of rope. After 500 meters, the chute widens into a 40° snow slope and ascends to a shoulder on the north ridge, where we placed Camp III at 7400 meters. From Camp III to the summit, a wide 40° snow slope with interspersed rock ridges runs to 7900 meters and then steepens to 50° loose rock with deep snow. On August 4, Pratt, Frenchmen Jean-Michel Meunier and Frank Lévy and Swiss Markus Staehelin climbed to the summit. From August 8 to 11, Briton Dr. Andrew Collins and I were storm-bound at Camp III but on August 12, we also reached the top. Two other summit attempts failed in bad weather. Pratt and Collins were the first British climbers to ascend Gasherbrum I. Pratt, Staehelin and Lévy participated in an all-night rescue to save the life of Nail Dervisević, a Bosnian climber who suffered a stroke that paralyzed his left side. The victim was dragged from Camp II on Gasherbrum II on a make-shift sled made from two blue barrels. He had lain in his tent for three days before our members could get to him. We tried to scrub the mountain squeaky clean, extending our efforts to all camps on Gasherbrum I and to Camps I and II on Gasherbrum II as well as to Base Camp.

DANIEL LEE MAZUR

Gasherbrum I. A Japanese expedition led by Naoyuki Saeki hoped to climb a new route on the north face of Gasherbrum I. After an eight-day approach from Askole, they established Base Camp, Camps I and II at 5100, 5900 and 6450 meters on July 3, 10 and 23, the latter just above the Gasherbrum La. They were attempting to climb a route to the left of the north-face couloir, but the rock was rotten and their progress was slow in their climb of three pitches of snow and nine of rock up to 6700 meters. They shifted to the couloir, which had already been climbed by Italians and was being climbed by an international commercial expedition. They established Camp III at 7400 meters on August 9, where they spent three nights in bad weather. On August 12, Mamoru Taniguchi, Masashi Saeki and Hideki Inaba climbed to the top on the same day as American David Mazur and Briton Andrew Collins. [See above.]

Gasherbrum II Ascents and Attempts. An international expedition climbed Gasherbrum II. On August 1, Americans Tom Hargis, leader, John Giban, Charlotte Fox and Randy Coffman, Ukrainian Oleg Banar, and Norwegians Bjørn Arne Evensen, Simon Mordre and Eirik Trysto reached the summit. This was the first ascent by an American woman, by a Ukrainian and by Norwegians. On August 2, the leader of *10 Spaniards*, Carlos Soria, got to the top with José Luis Hurtado, Antonio Tapiador, Javier Garrido, Juan Carlos Llamas and Pedro Nicolás. A *Bosnian* expedition led by Mohammad Gafić ran into difficulties. They established camps at 5900, 6400, 6900 and 7400 meters. On August 4, Oscar Prebanić was hit on the head by rockfall below Camp IV and despite

severe bleeding was able to descend with help. A week later, while stormbound at Camp II, Nail Dervisević fell seriously ill from high-altitude sickness and had to be evacuated through the joint efforts of a number of different expeditions. Under the leadership of Juan Ramón Jiménez, 5 *Spaniards* failed to get to the top. A strong party of 12 *Italians* whose leader was Abele Blanch was also unsuccessful.

Gasherbrum III attempt. All members of our expedition are serving in the British Army. They were Peter Lawes, Mark Skelton, John Morgan, Kevin Pritchard, Frank Lyman, Chris Davies, Dr. John Allen and I as leader. We followed the normal route on Gasherbrum II to the top of the ridge where the foot of the Gasherbrum II pyramid is reached. We intended to cross the col separating Gasherbrums II and III and climb the southeast face of Gasherbrum III, following the Polish route. The highest point we reached was Camp IV at the top of the ridge at 7350 meters. We stocked a camp there for a summit attempt. However, heavy snow fell and avalanched regularly across our route from the northwest face of Gasherbrum II. With time running out, we abandoned the attempt on August 18.

PATRICK L. HICKIE, *Royal Artillery, British Army*

Chogolisa Attempt. A Spanish expedition led by Mariano López failed to climb the route on Chogolisa on which Hermann Buhl lost his life.

Great Trango Tower, 1992. Before his tragic death, Xaver Bongard wrote an excellent article on the ascent he and John Middendorf made of the Great Trango Tower. It appears earlier in this *Journal*.

Trango Attempts. A 5-man Japanese expedition led by Tomoyuki Watanabe attempted a new route on the Great Trango Tower to the right of the Norwegian buttress, climbing six pitches, and one of the already climbed routes on the Nameless Tower, but they failed to complete either climb. South Koreans led by Kim Soo-Hwang also failed on the Great Trango Tower.

Uli Biaho, Attempt and Near Disaster. A Spanish Catalan expedition led by Oscar Cadiach and composed of Enric Dalmau, Joan Carles Grisso and Lluís Rafols was swept down several hundred meters by an avalanche in the middle of the night as they were camped high up in an attempt to climb Uli Biaho. Though they suffered some injuries, they were able to descend, but they gave up the expedition.

Latok Attempt. Benden Murphy and I made two alpine-style attempts on the Lowe route on Latok's north ridge between long spells of heavy snow. On

September 4, our first attempt ended after a day of climbing and a bivouac at 5300 meters when snow began again. During the descent, Murphy was injured by rockfall. On the 15th, we started again and again bivouacked at 5300 meters, the site of the Lowe-Destivelle tent. The following day, we reached 5600 meters in deteriorating weather before descending to the battered Lowe-Destivelle tent, which gave us some protection. We safely completed the descent the following day. It snowed every day until we departed on September 23.

DAVID WILLS, *Alpine Club*

Garumbar Glacier, Hispar Region. British climbers Dave Wilkinson, Tony Park, Bill Church and Brian Davison visited the Hispar region of the Karakoram. From the town of Hispar, they reconnoitered the Yengutz Har and the Garumbar Glaciers before deciding to place Base Camp on the latter. On July 28, they climbed a 5900-meter peak two kilometers north-northeast of Spantik and on August 3, a 5800-meter peak at the head of the Garumbar Glacier. Davison and Wilkinson then made a quick trip to the Naltar valley but failed to climb the south ridge of the South Twin. Throughout, they were hampered by unusually warm weather, which caused excessive rockfall. [We are grateful to Mr. Wilkinson for giving us this information.]

Laila Attempt. Kenzo Yamada, Yasuhiro Ohta, Kiyoshi Harada, Emiko Abe, Michio Noguchi, Masahiko Onda, Takashi Masude and I as leader attempted Laila (6986 meters, 22,921 feet), which rises above the Chogo Lungma Glacier. We left Skardu on July 19, but could not proceed by jeep beyond Tisar because of damage to the road. On July 24, we established Base Camp at 3900 meters at the entrance of the Haramosh Glacier. Camp I was placed on the Haramosh Glacier at 4320 meters on July 27. We started up the route used by the first-ascent party in 1971 but were turned back by unsound rock. We climbed down to the Laila Glacier and climbed up to a higher point on the same ridge via a steep chimney. On July 31, we established Camp II at 5110 meters. After climbing steep snow, on August 4 we made Camp III beneath a cornice at 5670 meters. The upper part of the ridge was blocked by crevasses and cornices. The route should have gone to a cirque on the right side of the ridge, which is the upper part of the Laila Glacier. There were crevasses and avalanche danger there. Our time had run out and we withdrew on August 5 from 5800 meters.

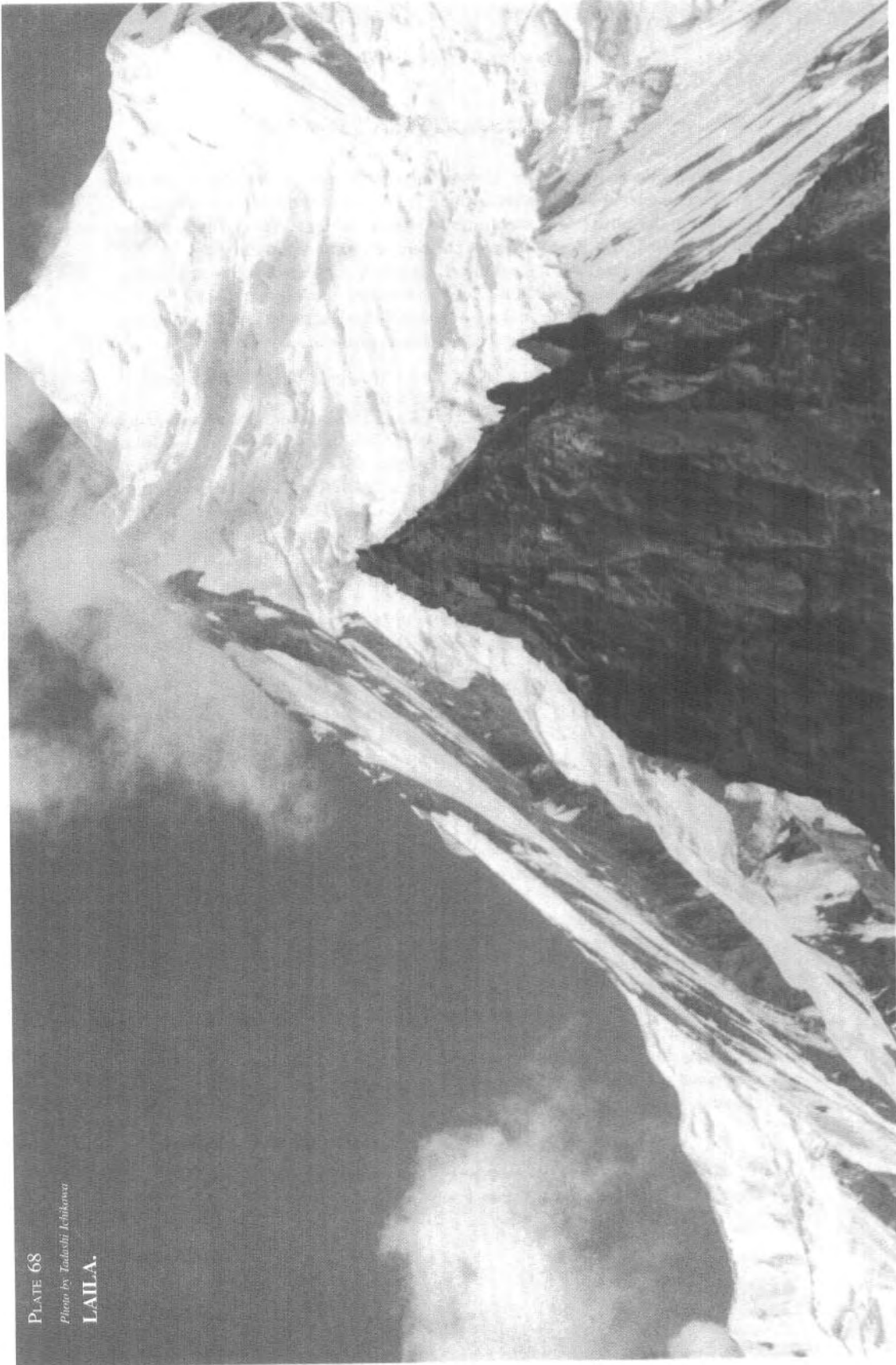
TADASHI ICHIKAWA, *Tokyo Hakuryo Alpine Club, Japan*

Diran, Ascent and Attempts. Diran (7257 meters, 23,810 feet) was attempted by six expeditions in 1994. All, except for an expedition of 10 Koreans led by Mun Hwan-Choi, failed to reach the summit. These included 8 Swiss led by Martin Bernhard Fischer, 6 Japanese led by Hideki Nakayama, 8 Japanese led by Osami Kunii, 8 Canadians led by Barry Blanchard and 8 Spaniards led by Jaime Alonso. The Spanish Catalans reached 5400 meters on the north ridge.

PLATE 68

Photo by Tadashi Ishikawa

LAILA.



Diran, North Ridge. Our 11-man expedition placed Base Camp on the Minipin Glacier at 3400 meters on June 11. We crossed the Minipin Glacier to the foot of the north ridge, establishing Camps I and II at 3800 and 4600 meters on June 14 and 20. Camps III and IV were set up on the north ridge at 5300 and 6100 meters on June 26 and July 1. On July 2 Jung Youn-II, Jung Sung-Do, Park Eul-Gyu and Jeong Ean-Cheol climbed to the summit (7257 meters, 23,809 feet). On July 9, Park Sung-Man and I climbed to the top, accompanied by Jung Youn-II, Jung Sung-Do, who summited for a second time.

CHOI MUN-HWAN, *Ulsan Mountain Club, South Korea*

Diran Tragedy, 1993. On page 262 of *AAJ, 1993*, reference was made to the death of Spaniards Francesc Xavier Socias and José Carlos Mármol from Mallorca on Diran. The pair were at Camp II on the normal north-face, west-ridge route at 6100 meters on the evening of July 31, 1993 when a severe storm struck with heavy snow and high winds. Gabriel Ordinas and Antoni Pons were at Camp I, hoping to move up the next day. When these finally were able to ascend, they found no trace of Camp II and their companions, who must have either been swept away by an avalanche or buried in the deep new snow.

Lupghar Sar East Attempt and Ascents of Dut Sar and Chikkorin Sar, 1993. Piercarlo Poletti, his wife Daniela Vanzini, Dino Cazzaniga, Riccardo Verderio, Claudio Ghezzi and I as leader hoped to climb virgin Lupghar Sar East (c. 7200 meters, 23,622 feet) by its northeast ridge. We left Pasu on August 3, 1993 with 23 porters, ascended the Shimshal valley and turned south up the Momhil Glacier to reach Base Camp at 3900 meters on August 7. We continued up the broken glacier to Advance Base at 4300 meters. On August 11, we established Camp I at 5100 meters on a tributary glacier that ascends to the west between the north ridge of Lupghar Sar East and the south ridge of Dut Sar. Our attempt on the northeast face of Lupghar Sar East ended at 5400 meters because of bad weather, technical difficulties and avalanche danger. On August 14, after returning to Base Camp, Verderio, porter Rahmat Ullah Baig and I in nine hours ascended Chikkorin Sar (6205 meters, 20,358 feet) on the east side of the Momhil Glacier by climbing the west rib to reach the south ridge at 5500 meters and then continuing along the ridge to the summit. Verderio descended by paraglider. Cazzaniga and Poletti repeated the climb ten days later. On August 21, Verderio and I set out from Camp I, climbed the south face of Dut Sar to 5850 meters where we met the east ridge and continued in deep snow along the ridge to the summit (6858 meters, 22,500 feet.) Continuing bad weather and avalanche danger forced us to give up on August 25. The Momhil Glacier has dangerous séracs and big crevasses. There are no safe routes on the big peaks above it.

GIACOMO SCACCABAROZZI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

Momhil Sar Attempt. The members of our Catalan expedition were Dr. Pep Cañellas, Albert Cornellas, Xavier Font, Dani Ramírez and I as leader. After

arriving at the roadhead at Nagar, we took four days to Base Camp, established at 4450 meters on June 23. We followed the route of the 1991 Japanese attempt on the east ridge. Camps I, II and III were established on June 27, July 5 and 13 at 4970, 5480 and 6250 meters. The route to Camp I was on easy moraine, but the way to Camp II, located on a big plateau, was complicated because of crevasses. The climbing to Camp III was easy but steep. We made a first attempt to reach the summit (7343 meters, 24,092 feet) on July 14, reaching 6500 meters. Cornellas and I had altitude problems. On July 25, Cañellas, Font and Ramírez left Camp III on 50° to 70° ramps with much deep snow. After 15 hours, they were at 6580 meters, where they bivouacked in a crevasse. On the 15th, Font stayed in the crevasse and the other two climbed in five hours to 6890 meters, but they were too exhausted to continue to the summit, although the climbing did not look difficult.

JAUME ROS, *Cataluña, Spain*

Ultrar Attempt. Our expedition was composed of Britons Caradoc Jones, Stephen Reid and me and American Ed Webster. Ultrar (7388 meters, 24,240 feet) is less than 3.5 miles from the Karakoram Highway, but it rises 3.5 miles (17,000 feet) above the height of the road. Since 1986, there have been 13 attempts to climb the mountain by expeditions from Japan, Germany, Norway, Spain, France and Britain (Jones and I were members of a 1991 British attempt), mostly on the south side. Since only two had been from the north, it was there we first looked. The Gulmit and Ghulkin Glaciers run parallel to each other with the heads of both fed by the northern slopes of Ultrar and Bojohagur. We had reconnoitered in 1991 as far as the first Gulmit icefall and this time we put a camp above the icefall. A feasible ridge seemed to start on Ultrar at 5000 meters from a plateau above a second icefall. We forced a way to 4600 meters, but the icefall was so broken that we dismissed it and returned to the south side, namely the southeast ridge valley or hidden valley. To get to the valley is no easy matter with several steep rocky cols to negotiate at 4500 meters amongst 5500-meter granite spires. Everything is in an advanced state of decay, resulting in a myriad of rock and ice avalanches. We had a troublesome time with our porters. When still a day's carry from Base Camp, we sent all but two porters home and were glad for the ensuing peace and quiet. Base Camp, occupied on July 9, was halfway up the Sikardu Glacier at 4600 meters. In 1991, Vic Saunders and Steve Sustad had started their route from low down on the Cunus Glacier, just opposite Ultrar's great southeast pillar. In 1994, we found a higher col linking up with their route but saving us 400 meters of climbing. On July 10, we gained the col and continued up an unnamed glacier to a snow rib and campsite at 5000 meters and just below what we called "lower pt 5 gully." All climbing on Ultrar had to be done at night due to appallingly hot-day conditions and so we left at two A.M. We turned the gully on the left through steep mixed ground and through another gully, "upper pt 5 gully." This gained us the long traverse which was as far as the reconnaissance was designed to go. The ice was

boiler plate as elsewhere on the mountain. We could now get a good view of the "slanting left ramp," of which neither Webster nor I liked the look. We abseiled to the last camp, where we stayed for two blustery snowy days during which it would have been unsafe to continue down because of avalanches coming down the glacier below. On July 17, we decided to attempt 5800-meter unscathed Gulmit Tower. The top of the Sikardu Glacier, which was quite crevassed in its middle section, gave way to a 50° slope which led to a 5300-meter col northwest of the tower, where we found a good campsite. The loose, dangerous rock on the tower kept us from getting more than a third of the way up the tower and we ended the attempt and descended. Jones and Reid left at midnight on July 26 to try the 1991 Saunders-Sustad route. Their second camp was near "upper pt 5," where they waited out the day as the snow slope next to the camp turned into a waterfall. On the 29th, they left camp at six P.M. and traversed 400 feet left to gain a vast snow basin. They crossed the kilometer-wide basin until they could find a breach in the bergschrund and gain access to the "left-slanting ramp." After good progress for four pitches, they found hard black ice. At seven A.M., with some of the ramp still to climb, they took shelter under rocks on the left from a bombardment of rockfall for the rest of the day. After the nighttime freeze, they began their retreat. Meanwhile, Webster and I set off up the Sikardu Glacier, intending to climb a glacial route to the left and then back up to the right to join Ultar's east ridge. Climbing at night mostly on boiler-plate ice, we camped during the days at 5300 and 5650 meters. Despite difficult climbing with inadequate protection, finally on July 29 in the heat of the day, we reached the east ridge at 6000 meters. This was corniced over the north face and we found no good place to camp. We continued up in protectionless steep sugar snow for another 100 vertical meters, but finding no better campsite, we returned to 6000 meters and dug a platform only five feet from a cornice. The next day, the 30th, we stayed put for a rest and came to the conclusion that this being our sixth day out, we had little chance of achieving Ultar. At three A.M. on the 31st, we commenced abseiling. Down-climbing and unpleasant abseils got us to Camp II. More of that on August 1 let us complete our descent to Base Camp in seven hours.

JULIEN FREEMAN-ATTWOOD, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Ultar Attempt and Tragedy: A 5-member Japanese expedition led by Ken Takahashi tried to climb the entire south ridge of Ultar (7388 meters, 24,240 feet) from the village of Altit. On August 9, Yozaburo Kurosaki fell to his death when at 6900 meters a fixed rope damaged by rockfall parted. The expedition was then abandoned.

Shispare. On June 16, Yukiteru Masui, leader, Seiji Watanabe, Tsuyoshi Ozawa, Hitoshi Kokubu, Naoki Satoh and I started from Barut with two high-altitude porters and 70 local porters. On the 18th, we made Base Camp at 4100 meters at Youch on the north side of the Pasu Glacier. We selected the first

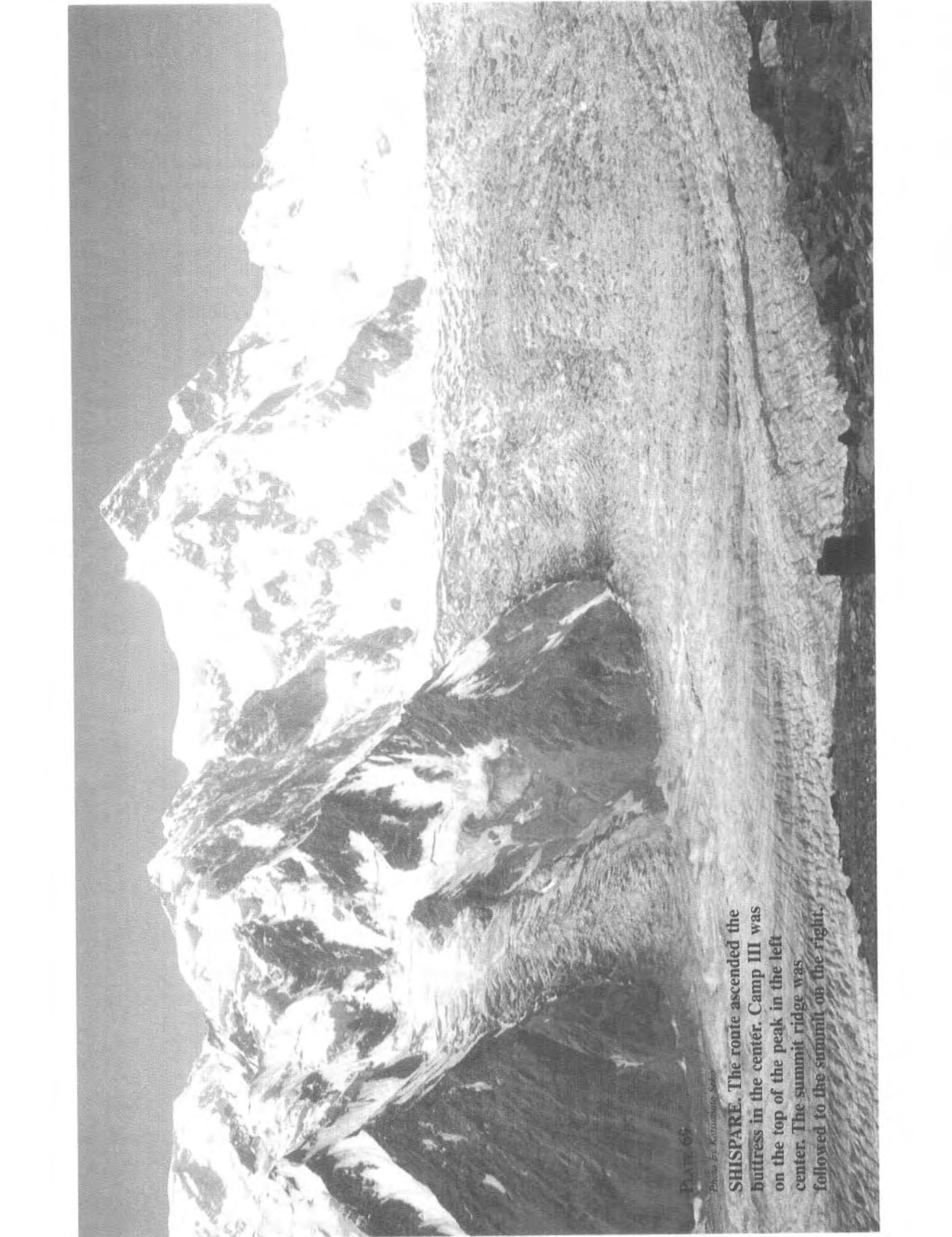


PLATE 65

Photo by Karamchik, 1965

SHISPARE. The route ascended the buttress in the center. Camp III was on the top of the peak in the left center. The summit ridge was followed to the summit on the right.

spur of the northeast ridge of Shispare as our route and placed Advance Base on the glacier at the foot of the spur. We climbed on the west side of the spur to reach the upper plateau of the glacier, where on June 25 we placed Camp I at 4800 meters. We climbed a steep snow face to the ridge and followed the knife-edge, fixing 1500 meters of rope to the plateau above the ridge, where we placed Camp II at 5750 meters on July 7. We crossed the plateau and climbed a snow ridge to a col after passing three small peaks and climbed a 6350-meter peak with 200 meters of fixed rope. We made Camp III at 6300 meters on July 13. Camp IV was put at 6800 meters on the plateau leading to Shispare's summit on July 18. On July 20, Masui, Kokubu and Ozawa left Camp IV at three A.M. and reached the summit (7611 meters, 24,971 feet) at one P.M. after overcoming soft, difficult snow 100 meters below the peak. This was the second ascent of the peak. We used the same route as the Polish-German party in 1974.

KATSUMOTO SEKO, *Komono Alpine Club, Japan*

Pasu I, Ski Ascent and Descent. After a 26-hour bus trip up the Karakoram Highway, we took two days to reach Base Camp at 4000 meters on a flowered meadow up the large Pasu Glacier. We spent the next days finding a good route up the trough beside icefalls in the glacier itself. We fixed some rope there and found a good campsite at 5000 meters. On August 1, we packed loads and established Camp I. In the trough, we were nearly engulfed by an avalanche falling from séracs above. Four weeks of good weather made us hurry because a change in the weather would make the climb more difficult. On the way to Camp II at 6000 meters, there was a huge gap in the glacier, which caused us a day's delay before we could descend into it and climb the perpendicular back wall. On August 7, Dirk Naumann, Ralf Lehmann, Dr. Volker Wurnig and I left Camp II for the summit at 4:30 A.M. At nine A.M., we saw Pasu I for the first time, but we still had to climb for hours to reach the top (7478 meters, 24,535 feet) at 5:30 P.M. after thirteen hours of long, hard work. It was no pleasure to ski down to Camp II because the snow conditions were bad and our legs were tired. The weather then turned bad with rain and much snow in the higher regions. Therefore, we could not climb Pasu II (7295 meters, 23,934 feet), also called Pasu East or Pasu Diar.

MAX WALLNER, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

Kuti Dorkush, Batura Group. Irishmen Jack Bergin and Mairi Keenleyside climbed virgin Kuti Dorkush (c. 6000 meters). From Gilgit, they continued by jeep to Bar. Base Camp was near the junction of the Kukuar and Sat Marao Glaciers at 3200 meters. After reconnaissance up the Sat Marao Glacier, they established camp at 4400 meters. On August 6, they climbed séracs, steep ice and mixed ground. Via ice of 70°, they reached the heavily corniced southwest ridge. They got to the summit at ten A.M.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

Dirgot Zom. Six Japanese led by Kiyomi Katori are said to have climbed Dirgot Zom (6778 meters, 22,238 feet). No details are available at this time.

Nanga Parbat, Illegal Bulgarian Ascent, 1993. In *AAJ, 1994*, pages 264-5, the report of a Bulgarian climb of Nanga Parbat was given. Apparently this was illegal. The Pakistani liaison officer with an Anglo-Polish expedition reported on his return from the mountains that this Bulgarian expedition had in fact been on the mountain without a liaison officer and without permission. Consequently, the five climbers are barred from climbing in Pakistan for four years.

Nanga Parbat Ascent and Tragedy. Our expedition was originally to be led by Arturo Santolaria, but he was injured in a traffic accident and I took over as leader. The other members were José Ramón Agraz, Joaquín Castellón, Lorenzo Ortiz and Antonio López. We were also accompanied by Dr. Manuel Avellanas. Climbing the Kinshofer Route on the Diamir Face, we were the only expedition on the mountain. We trekked from Bunar to Base Camp at 3900 meters from May 7 to 10 with 84 porters, whom we had contracted after costly and patient negotiations. The weather on the approach and in the next days was poor. We established Camps I and II at 5000 and 6000 meters on May 18 and 28. We dug out and used some 450 meters of old fixed rope between Camps I and II and fixed much more ourselves. We were hampered by bad weather and deep new snow. On June 18, we reached our previously placed dump at the site of Camp III, which was covered by three meters of snow. On the 19th, I had to give up personal hopes of the summit and descend in order to return to make arrangements in Islamabad. On June 20, Ortiz and Agraz set up Camp III at 6600 meters and were joined on the 21st by Castellón and López to establish Camp IV at 7200 meters. After a day of rest, the four set out at two A.M. for the summit in variable snow. At 7800 meters, they made a mistake in the route, but corrected it and at 11:15 A.M., Ortiz, Castellón and Agraz got to the summit. López, who had fallen behind, had suffered cerebral edema at 7900 meters. In the early afternoon, his companions joined him and helped him to walk under his own power back to Camp IV, where he recuperated at the lesser altitude. He also responded well to medicines. At six A.M. on June 24, López called Dr. Avellanas and me on the radio to say that he was in good shape and that we could leave in good conscience. They would start the descent in 15 minutes. At 8:30 A.M., at the end of a section of fixed rope at 6850 meters, a slab of snow broke under López's feet and he fell 2000 meters to his death. The place into which he fell was continually swept by avalanches. There was too great a risk to retrieve his body. The rest of us were all back in Rawalpindi by June 27.

ANTONIO UBIETO, *Peña Gaura de Huesca, Spain*

P 18,500, above Thalo Glacier, Hindu Raj, Chitral. From the roadhead at Balim. Rich Davies, Rob Thomas, Steve Wrigley, Maggie Worth, Mike

Morphen and I as leader walked for three days to arrive at our 12,000-foot Base Camp on Bashkargolo Chat (lake) on August 11. From a higher camp at 13,000 feet just below the snout of the Thalo Glacier, we explored the region. On August 15, from a camp at 16,200 feet, Wrigley and I climbed the west face of an 18,500-foot peak. Most of the 1500-foot route was on good ice up to 60°, but the top 200 feet were on extremely broken, loose rock. This region of easy access has several interesting objectives for a small group with limited time or funds.

DAVID J. WILSON, *Alpine Climbing Group*

Gul Lasht Zom South and Gul Lasht Zom Southeast, Hindu Kush. Our 12-member Italian expedition reached the roadhead at Shogrom and in three days got to Base Camp at 4650 meters below Istor-O-Nal on the Upper Tirich Glacier. On August 9, we crossed that glacier and placed Camp I at 4950 meters. On August 12, four climbers established Camp II at 5650 meters on the snowy plateau below the Gul Lasht Zom peaks despite incredibly hot weather. On August 15, Elena Guabello, Giacomo Bornancini and I climbed to the summit of Gul Lasht Zom South (6401 meters, 21,000 feet) via the northeast face and north ridge. The entire climb was on ice and was made difficult by meter-high *penitentes*. On August 17, Francesco Pavanini, Andrea Miotto, Enrico Perani and Marco Baldan climbed Gul Lasht Zom Southeast (6100 meters, 20,013 feet) via the east face and north ridge.

LUCIO DE FRANCESCHI, *Club Alpino Italiano*

Afghanistan

Mir Samir Attempt and Ascent of P 5000. After years when it was too dangerous to enter the mountains of Afghanistan, New Zealander Bob McKerrow and Englishmen Ian Clarke and Jon Tinker headed in 1994 for Mir Samir in the Hindu Kush. McKerrow is Head of Delegation for the International Red Cross in Afghanistan. Clarke is a former Royal Marine, now head of the Halo Trust mine clearance organization in Afghanistan. Tinker has worked in that country a number of times in the past seven years. The three climbers set off from Kabul on September 23, first acclimatizing near the Salang Pass before driving to Patian in the upper Panjchir valley. There four horses were hired to carry food and equipment up the Chamar valley to Base Camp at 3400 meters. Clarke's skill was put to test when they saw air-dropped scatterable anti-personnel mines. They established a higher camp at 4300 meters on September 29. Because of deep snow, the two Englishmen made slow progress the next day to bivouac at 4900 meters on an unclimbed snow route on the southwest face of Mir Samir. On October 1, they made a summit attempt, but unseasonably deep snow turned them back at 5200 meters, some 600 meters from the summit.